~DIALOGUE ON POLITICS, ETHICS, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE~

We devote this section of the Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement to what we hope will be a continuing dialogue on the general topic of “politics, ethics, and social justice.” What do those of us involved in the service, outreach, and engagement program in higher education want to see happen as a result of our efforts? Do we want to see positive change in our own colleges and universities? Do we want to see positive change in the world of practice? Do we want to see positive change in the political arena? What are the ethical issues and implications that face colleges and universities in carrying out their service and outreach mission? How far can they go in promoting a particular cause? These and other questions arise in the context of university public service, outreach, and engagement.

This section was inspired by the “Doug Sturm Dialogue on Ethics and Social Justice” at Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, which was created to honor Professor Douglas Sturm, a distinguished and prolific emeritus professor of religion and political science at Bucknell, and also to advance the cause of critical thinking and doing in the areas of ethics and social justice. Because public issues are complex and often interrelated, we welcome perspectives from a variety of vantage points.